

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: ☐

Roger Wadman, Regional Supervisor
Sports Fish Division
ADF&G/Juneau

DATE : December 15, 1966

FROM:

Larry Heckart, Fishery Biologist
Sports Fish Division
ADF&G/Sitka

SUBJECT: SWAN LAKE

Once again there seems to be a desire on a portion of the local populace to do something with Swan Lake. Recent talks with the Mayor and Mr. McClain seem to point to this.

I've repeatedly pointed out the pro's and con's to Cecil, and it appears that the opportunity to do so to the City Council is forthcoming.

To me the possibilities are as follows:

1. We can publicize the present outstanding population of Cutthroat and hope for increased interest. This has some merit as the existing population is of exceptional quality.
2. The lake could be rehabilitated and restocked. From a strict biological viewpoint, the only suitable species are Cutthroat and Grayling, due to periodic low oxygen levels.
3. The lake could be rehabilitated and stocked with Rainbow, with the possibilities of occasional winter loss realized.

We currently have Cutthroat which are not being utilized, even though the majority of sewage outflow has been eliminated. Grayling in a lake as productive as Swan may not be the most desirable from the point of "catch-ability". I strongly suspect this would be true.

I believe Rainbow would exhibit exceptional growth and from this standpoint be the best bet, although in some years low oxygen would be a limiting factor. It appears that this would be an irregular thing.

My question is this: Could we stock with Rainbow in the spring, anticipating catchable fish by fall, and hope for winter "carry-over"?

I'm quite sure that we could produce catchable Rainbow in a six month period. Next question: Would we have fish for stocking in early spring? And, in case of necessity, handle Swan Lake on regular stocking basis?

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If it proves impossible to maintain Rainbow, the alternative would be to introduce Grayling which could be accomplished without a second rehabilitation.

I don't think that stocking Rainbow with the realization of possible winter loss would be too far out of line. I also think that the local people would go along with this. It could develop into an outstanding fishery.

I would appreciate your comments on this before I commit myself in any manner.

Incidentally, the lake remains ice-free in some years.

LH/ph